

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 45**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: July 2, 2010

Reporting Period: July 1, 2010 1300 – July 2, 2010 1300

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regional weather patterns continue to hamper shoreline protection and sampling efforts.
- OSWER, OW, ORD, and ERT are working with LSU and the State of Louisiana to develop a joint statement regarding not using bioremediation agents as a viable response tool for the clean up of the Louisiana oil impacted marshes. Will continue to collaborate on other alternative proposals.

CONTINUING ISSUES

Forecast

The nearshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 6/30/10 at 2100 CDT for 7/1/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 1) indicates that the main part of the oil slick will be east of Louisiana with a portion of the slick south of the Delta extending westward. Winds are forecast to be predominately out of the southeast at 5-15 knots through next week. Shoreline contacts may occur on the barrier islands of Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle as far east as Freeport, FL. With the sustained SE winds, shoreline contacts also threaten Breton Sound, the Chandeleur Islands and the Mississippi Delta. The strong southeast winds may bring oil ashore between Barataria and Caillou Bay and a strong westward current that is developing may carry the oil to the west faster.

- For maps concerning shoreline impact assessments, oil slick forecasts, and sampling locations go to <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979/>

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with HQ, Region 4, and the REOC Environmental Unit regarding planning activities and daily review of monitoring data.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen to date.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Updated the Shoreline Coastal Assessment Team (SCAT) and the oiled CWPPRA projects maps.

NPDES

- Participating in discussions with OW and R4 on options for modification of existing oil and gas general permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Reviews are being initiated of the State's full permit application package and monitoring plan.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- Draft comments were sent to OW concurrence on the proposal by the Terrebonne and South Lafourche Levee Districts to fill breaks in the existing levee structures. The Corps deadline for comments was extended to July 2nd. The Corps is considering whether this project meets the criteria as an oil spill response measure.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Discussions continue with the Corps headquarters and New Orleans District regarding oil contaminated dredged material disposal in the lower Mississippi River. The Corps agrees that contaminated dredged material should not be disposed in the EPA designated Southwest Pass Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site. Disposal options will be discussed at the daily Water (Regions and OW) Coordination Meeting conference call today.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- It is anticipated that there may be re-oiling of several shorelines in the vicinity of CWPPRA projects located in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins.